

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 6531

TITLE: LEAD PLANT OPERATOR

GRADE: S-18

DEFINITION:

Under general supervision, performs lead operator duties in the operation of a large wastewater treatment plant; OR performs specialized duties requiring advanced skill levels such as the operation of biological nutrient removal processes, advanced treatment processes, sludge dewatering processes, and incinerators; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

The Lead Plant Operator class is distinguished from the Plant Operator class in that the Lead Plant Operator is responsible for leading and instructing lower level operators and for performing duties that are clearly beyond the journey or routine level of plant operation. The Lead Plant Operator class is distinguished from the Senior Plant Operator in that the Senior Plant Operator often is required to assume the full supervision of either the solids or liquids section of the plant whereas the Lead Plant Operator is not required to perform such duties. Also, the Senior Plant Operator is required to acquire and maintain a Class I Wastewater Treatment Operator certification from the Commonwealth of Virginia, whereas the Lead Plant Operator is required to have a Class III certification.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Performs lead operator duties in the overall operation of the County's wastewater treatment plant;

Operates equipment in the sludge dewatering and incineration facilities of the plant;

Leads and participates in the operation and maintenance of power-driven pumps, valves, air compressors, sludge conveyors, and associated equipment;

Monitors and adjusts sludge dewatering operations to ensure optimum incineration;

Analyzes sludge samples and changes or directs changes in sludge thickening, conditioning, dewatering, and incineration;

Reads, interprets, and records data from meters, gauges, and thermometers;

Advises appropriate personnel of any unusual conditions discovered in the analysis of sludge to be incinerated and assists in the determination of corrective action;

Maintains records, generates reports, and notifies appropriate supervisory and management personnel of any unusual occurrences.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Ability to write accurate reports and maintain accurate records;

Ability to comprehend and follow oral and written instructions;

Ability to instruct and explain wastewater treatment processes to lower level operators;

Ability to learn moderately complex tasks and to perform such tasks without close supervision;

Skill in understanding and performing mechanical processes.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, training, and experience equivalent to the following:
Graduation from high school, GED, or the equivalent and two years of work experience in the operation of a wastewater treatment plant.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Must attain a Class III Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia within one year of appointment and must continue to maintain such certification.

REVISED: February 25, 2003